

reformers were spiritually at home with the American Founding Fathers; they shared the same fundamental ideals. America was viewed as a model; it was certainly not an accident that Polish Reformer-King Stanislaw August had put a bust of George Washington in his study at the Warsaw Castle. And it was certainly not accidental that Polish volunteers participated in the American Revolution. At this point I must express my most sincere gratitude for the recent joint resolution of the United States Congress commemorating the two hundred fifth anniversary of the adoption of Poland's first constitution.

But while the America envisaged by the Founding Fathers has become a great democracy and still governs itself by the same constitution, Poland had spent most of the last two centuries relentlessly struggling to achieve among the nations of the earth that which your Declaration of Independence called "a separate and equal station to which laws of nature and Nature's God entitle them". I am not a historian, as you know, but sometimes I think that, perhaps, apart from the right ideals and stubborn resolve, nations need a bit of luck too. For instance, I would have liked Fortune to have placed the Poland of the 1791 Constitution somewhere on the map of North America and not in the center of Europe, between autocratic and imperial Russia and Prussia.

It was exactly 200 years ago that President George Washington was retiring. Having led a victorious fight against the imperial tyranny of Britain and ensured America's independence, he could withdraw into the peace and tranquillity of his beloved Mount Vernon. He cautioned that free people must always remain wary of potential threats, but he was convinced that what he called America's "detached and distant position" offered hope that the republic would endure. As you well know, my country, inhabiting the heart of Europe, unfortunately had not the luxury of such a "distant and detached position" over the past two centuries. The tough experiences of our history do not make a retirement in true peace of mind a very likely possibility for any leader. Perhaps that is why Poles love liberty as one loves a bride but Americans love her more as a grandmother.

But I believe that, although we cannot affect Fortune, we can and should help it. From 1989, liberty in Central Europe had been given a new, historic chance, a chance preceded by a very, very long and bitter struggle, and, as such, deserving the needed nourishment of peace and security. May I point out that Poland is today the fastest growing economy in Europe a remarkable evidence of fruits born of regained liberty.

We have before us a rare window of opportunity to help preserve both peace and freedom—and the former depends much on the latter—and ensure that it extends well into the twenty first century. Just as the eighteenth-century constitutions opened a new epoch, the fall of totalitarianism in Europe offers a similar prospect today. But many a great battle in history had been ultimately lost due to a lack of follow up by the victors to ensure a durable success. I strongly believe that this is such a moment requiring a follow up in the form of providing NATO security to ensure the durability of the democratic revolutions of 1989. Only United States has the power and authority today to lead towards this goal. I am particularly pleased that this cause has found much bipartisan support in the United States Congress. It gives me much faith and hope that the liberty for which so many have struggled for so long will be given the protection and opportunity it merits.

I wish to thank you once again for your kind invitation and for your inestimable support now as in the past.

## HONORING THE SHACKLE ISLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND RESCUE SQUAD

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 1996*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Shackle Island Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that should disaster strike, we know that our friends and neighbors are there to help.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a member of the rescue squad. Rescue squad members undergo a training series over a 4- to 6-month period which includes instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation [CPR], vehicle extrication, emergency driving, and rescue orientation. In addition to this training, rescue squad members also meet monthly to address business concerns as well as hear guest speakers.

Rescue squad members are volunteers. They receive no pay for what they do. What also makes their service especially outstanding is that the organizations themselves receive no funding. They receive no funding from the city, the county, or the Federal Government.

Rescue squads are funded in the same spirit of community volunteerism which moves them to serve. Family, friends, and neighbors pitch in at bake sales, road blocks, and fish fries to help those who sacrifice their time for the benefit of the whole community.

Committing such an amount of spare time and energy to a job so emotionally and physically taxing requires a sense of devotion and duty for which we are all grateful.

## THE MILLENNIUM ACT OF 1996

**HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 1996*

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Millennium Act of 1996 along with my colleagues, Representatives MORAN, BATEMAN, PICKETT, SCOTT, SISISKY, L.F. PAYNE, BOUCHER, WOLF, GEJDESON, FROST, WILSON, MOORHEAD, FAZIO, BEREUTER, ROEMER, MANTON, MONTGOMERY, LANTOS, STEARNS, COSTELLO, CONYERS, DURBIN, MARKEY, D. YOUNG, WHITFIELD, and BILIRAKIS.

This bill is a bipartisan effort to focus the Nation's attention on what may become one of the most anticipated events in history—the beginning of a new millennium. As the new millennium nears, this bill hopes to focus our attention on the achievements of the past 1,000 years and help to foster educational opportunities for those who may take on leadership responsibilities in the next 1,000 years.

Since its founding in 1979 by a group of college students from around the world, the Millennium Society has worked successfully to organize a global celebration and commemoration of humankind's achievements during this millennium and to endow a crosscultural scholarship program to help educate future

leaders. I believe it is the oldest organization in the country formed for the specific purpose of celebrating and commemorating the historical significance of the millennium. The society was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, charitable organization in 1984 for the purpose of establishing and administering the Millennium Society Scholarship Program.

The Millennium Society plans to organize and telecast "Countdown 2000" celebrations here and around the world to permanently endow its Millennium Scholars Program.

Unlike the Bicentennial Commission which required Federal funding, this bill asks for no Federal funds. Title I of this bill provides the society with the official authorization and designation to administer millennium activities both here and abroad and ensures that charitable proceeds will go to the Millennium Scholars Program. The organizers hope that this designation can operate much like the U.S. Olympic trademark. Mr. President, to the best of my knowledge, there are no other organizations that are competing for this designation nor have any indicated any specific interest in doing so.

The second title authorizes the minting of commemorative coins. This bill incorporates some of the language from the House commemorative coin reform legislative package, H.R. 2614. Specifically, the Millennium Society agrees not to derive any proceeds until all the numismatic operation and program costs allocable to the program have been recovered by the U.S. Mint. Moreover, it embodies some of the key criteria and recommendations of the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Commission. The minting of the millennium coins will not begin until July 1999. Further, through its own fundraising efforts, the Millennium Society will match the funds received through commemorative coin sales for its scholarship program.

The third title expresses the sense of Congress that the U.S. Postal Service should consider the issuance of stamps to commemorate the close of the second millennium and the advent of the third millennium.

The Millennium Society was established as an international, charitable organization dedicated to giving students from around the world a chance to go on to college and to promote international fellowship and understanding among the world's peoples on an unofficial and nongovernmental basis.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting this legislation to both commemorate the coming millennium and help provide scholastic funding for its future leaders.

## TRIBUTE TO JULIAN CERVANTES ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM UAW LOCAL 509

**HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 12, 1996*

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a dear friend and tireless advocate for the working men and women of America. Next Tuesday, June 18, 1996, Julian Cervantes will retire from the United Auto Workers Amalgamated Local Union No. 509 after 43 years of dedicated and exemplary service.